

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 966
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USCINCEUR
CARMISH MAAG
16TH AF
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JCS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5235

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, IR, SP
SUBJECT: IRANIAN REQUEST TO USE TORREJON BASE

REF: STATE 160057

1. UNDER EXISTING PROCEDURES, NEITHER USAF NOR OTHER US AGENCY
IN SPAIN IS ABLE TO PROCESS REQUESTS FOR FLIGHT CLEARANCES FOR
THIRD-COUNTRY AIRCRAFT. MOREOVER, WE KNOW OF NO CASE IN THE PAST
SEVERAL YEARS IN WHICH SPANISH AUTHORITIES HAVE GRANTED
PERMISSION FOR THIRD-COUNTRY MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO LAND
AT SPANISH BASES ON WHICH THE U.S. HAS MILITARY FACILITIES.
WHILE THE AGREEMENT IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TREATY
(ART. VIII, PARA 3; PROCEDURAL ANNEX VII, PARA 1.4) PROVIDES
FOR SPECIAL PROCEDURES IN SUCH CASES, IN FACT THERE ARE
NONE. WITH RESPECT TO U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT CARRYING
CREW MEMBERS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THIRD
COUNTRIES, THERE EXISTS A SPECIAL PROCEDURE ONLY FOR
CANADIAN AIR FORCE PILOTS ON EXCHANGE DUTY WITH USAF
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UNITS. TANKER AIRCRAFT ARE, IN THEMSELVES, A SPECIALL
PROBLEM IN OUR MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS WITH SPAIN.

2. IN THE RECENT CASE OF U.S. C-130 AIRCRAFT BEING
FERRIED TO EGYPT FROM THE UNITED STATES WITH EGYPTIAN
AIR FORCE PASSENGERS, SPANISH AUTHORITIES ALSO REFUSED
REQUEST FOR PERMISSION BY EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES FOR THE USE

OF TORREJON, BOTH FOR LANDING THE PLANES AND FOR BILLETING THE EGYPTIAN PASSENGERS. THE NEARBY SPANISH AIRFORCE BASE AT GETAFE WAS USED. FACILITIES AT GETAFE ARE CONSIDERED FULLY ADEQUATE. (THIS IS PARTICULARLY THE CASE, OF COURSE, FOR F-4'S, SINCE LOCATED AT GETAFE IS THE PRINCIPAL OVERHAUL FACILITY IN EUROPE FOR THIS AIRCRAFT.)

3. SPANISH AUTHORITIES HAVE CONSISTENTLY TAKEN THE LINE THAT SUCH REQUESTS ARE TO BE TREATED DIRECTLY BETWEEN THEM AND THE INTERESTED THIRD COUNTRY. THE LIMIT OF APPROPRIATE U.S. ACTION IN SUCH CASES HAS NORMALLY BEEN TO INDICATE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO OBJECTION, GIVEN SPANISH APPROVAL FOR USE OF THE BASE, TO THE USE OF EXCLUSIVELY U.S. FACILITIES ON THE BASE. WE ARE PREPARED TO SO INDICATE HERE THROUGH THE JOINT COMMITTEE FOR POLITICO-MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS, BUT HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THIS WOULD IN ANY WAY INFLUENCE THE SPANISH DECISION.

4. FOR SPAIN, THIS IS A MATTER OF LONG-STANDING PRACTICE WHICH APPEARS DESIGNED TO PREVENT THIRD COUNTRIES FROM ACHIEVING THROUGH U.S.-SPANISH AGREEMENTS ACCESS TO SPANISH MILITARY FACILITIES. IT MAY HAVE BEEN DIRECTED IN ITS ORIGIN PRINCIPALLY AT NATO COUNTRIES, BUT HAS BEEN APPLIED WITHOUT EXCEPTION TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE. SINCE THERE ARE GOOD

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FACILITIES AT GETAFE AND SPANISH AUTHORITIES CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE FULLY COOPERATIVE WITH RESPECT TO FERRYING OPERATIONS USING THAT BASE, WE RECOMMEND AGAINST U.S. INTERVENTION WITH SPANISH AUTHORITIES IN THIS MATTER ADDITIONAL TO THAT INDICATED IN PARA 3 ABOVE, SINCE IN ANY EVENT SPANISH RESPONSE HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN NEGATIVE IN SUCH CASES. STABLER

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